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OCT 24 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11-15.

Please amend claims 1 and 10 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A commercial potato shipping container, comprising:

a multi-layer paper bale for shipping bulk quantities of potatoes and configured for use with an automated potato bale-filling apparatus, the paper bale having sufficient size to receive and sufficient strength to retain during shipping a plurality of consumer sized bags of potatoes and having:

an elongated front panel;

an elongated flat-back panel;

elongated left and right side panels adjoining the front and back panels;

a closed bottom panel joining the front and back panels with the left and right side panels;

an open top portion;

an aperture in the back panel proximate the top portion with the back panel having a continuous perimeter surrounding the aperture; and

a cut-away portion in the front panel ~~proximate the top portion~~ positioned to expose the aperture wherein the aperture is in the back panel only and wherein the front and rear panels proximate the top portion are flat between the left and right side panels.

2. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is in the back panel substantially midway between the left and right side panels.

3. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is substantially circular in shape.

4. (Original) The bag of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ventilation openings in the front and back panels.

5. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the side panels have elongated creases along the side panels centrally located between the front and back panels and the front panel has a crease proximate the bottom panel to facilitate folding.

6. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the front and back panels and left and right side panels have a length of approximately thirty-two inches.

7. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the front and back panels have a width of approximately thirteen inches.

8. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the left and right panels have a width of approximately seven inches.

9. (Original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is substantially circular in shape and has a diameter of approximately 0.625 inches.

10. (Currently Amended) A commercial potato shipping container for use with an automated bag-filling apparatus having a protruding member positioned to retain the shipping container in a substantially vertical orientation, comprising:

a multi-layer paper bale for shipping bulk quantities of potatoes and configured for use with an automated potato bale-filling apparatus, the paper bale having sufficient size to receive and sufficient strength to retain during shipping a plurality of consumer sized bags of potatoes and having:

first and second opposing panels ~~having an unfolded upper portion;~~

first and second opposing side panels adjoining the first and second opposing panels;

a closed bottom panel joining the first and second opposing panels with the first and second opposing side panels;

an open top portion;

an aperture in ~~the unfolded upper portion of the first opposing panel~~ proximate the top portion with the first opposing panel having a continuous perimeter surrounding the aperture, the aperture sized to slideably fit onto the protruding member; and

a cut-away portion in the second opposing panel ~~proximate the top portion positioned~~ to expose the aperture wherein ~~the aperture is in the first opposing panel only~~ the first opposing panel, in a region surrounding the aperture, is flat between the first and second side panels and wherein the second opposing panel, in a region proximate the cut-away portion, is flat between the first and second side panels.

11-15 (Canceled)